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Roque Santan Goa Bombay

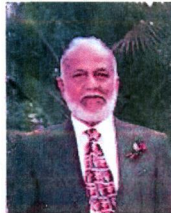
Goa India

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"Father of Goan Democracy" Mr. Roque Santan, Goa - Bombay Picture

June 19, 2018 0 Comment Bombay Picture, goa, Roque, Santan



41st Successor, Velliapura Kadambas of Goa

Even though RoquiSantan would have been 90 years old today, his relevance to represent and articulate the aspirations of Goan is still felt in Goa today whether its democratic power in the hands of Goans to plan and shape the future, mining or farming in Goa, his name is associated in sustainable development in the state. He favoured development that is conducted without depletion of natural resources. He worked with in the frame work of need for everyone to do their part, he wanted new investment in the state be clean and resilient infrastructure, he was of the opinion that it's the only way to keep workers safe and protect the environment. But for many it seemed impossible that the average person can make an impact this short coming opened and fueled corruption after liberation in Goa.

RoquiSantan came from different background, World renowned author George Mark Moraes in his originally published 1931 book Kadamba Kula writes about 12th century Velliapura present day Velim, Centuries later on March 15, 1927 Roque Santan was born as a prince to this Velliapura family in this historical place the Velliapura palace. In 1345 after the assassination of the last king of Goa his Queen took shelter in much safer Velliapura in their southern administrative center and by virtue of Goa Queen adopting her nephew Jayashi who was the Yuvraja of Hangal and survivor after the 1347 Hangal battle this Velliapura family since that time as their descendants inherits dual royal title namely of Goa and Hangal medieval kingdoms. But for young RoqueSantan as a second born child, this did not matter growing up. On finishing his primary education in St. Reginamundi Portuguese school in Assolna his parents shifted him to Belgaum for further studies, he along with his elder brother, they were accommodated as paying guests with their Kadamba coterie family. There they also received training in archery, horse riding and warfare tactics as circular activities. After graduating from Belgaum they join their father Ave Leao in Bombay and young RoquiSantan took a job as proof reader in 'Times of India publications'. While Working there he was influenced by the speeches of Mahatma Gandhi to work for the liberation of Goa. On June 17 1952 he and four others members of Azad Gomantak Dal loaded a car with ammunition to conduct an attack on Chandor Police depots in their effort to liberate Salcete and declare its independent, according to Goa archive and Raibandar Military Hospital records he was gravely wounded with 9 bullet wounds on his left hand and leg, one missing his heart and puncturing his lung. It was the warning to this Portuguese Colonist by Prime Minister Nehru's June 18 International press briefing at Teen Murti House, New Delhi that he was shifted to Raibandar Military Hospital for better treatment, blood transfusion had save his life. His recovery was delayed by partial paralysis later he was jailed in Aguada for 18 years 'treason' sentence.

Goa was liberated by Indian Army and Roque Santan was released free from jail. Since Goa was an acquired territory, it was not given immediate statehood but was incorporated as a Union Territory. Goa did not have its own state legislature, Maharashtra through its agents propagated merger of Goa, the identity of Goa was at risk Roqui Santan opposed the nomination by Lt. Governor and organized a 3-day Satyagraha for early democracy in Goa. Thousands of Goan joined him in Margao Municipality and shouted slogans against the Lt. Governor. On the third day of fasting again PM Nehru came to his rescue and promised to fulfil his demand subsequently Goa's first polls were held on 9 December 1963 and for this Roqui Santan is popularly known as 'Father of Goan Democracy'. But his elder brother Ricardo was not ready to give away his Goa, joining hands with his Africans leaders he pressed the Kennedy white house to reintroduce the Goan invasion in United Nations some how he disappeared while in Morocco and his body was never recovered in 1964 his aging father acting on the pressure of their hard core Coterie bestowed the dual medieval title of Yuvraj upon RoquiSantan who was still a reluctant royal. He had a tough faceoff with his coterie when he filled his nomination to contest from his home constituency. In 1970 soon after the passing away of the 40th Successor, Ave leao, RoquiSantan

Even after democracy the merger issue was not going away, Maharashtra with its mighty resources base had lots to spare or invested into any thing that encouraged this activity in Goa, soon after the installation of the first elected government in Goa this merger issue became a white elephant in the elected house. Roque Santan was the front leader along with Dr. Sequira and Purshotam kakodkar who convinced Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for a specially crafted opinion poll which brought the desired results for Goans.

The victory of Opinion poll was over warming lot of leaders were confused as people again voted the same government back to power, the presence of same elements in ruling later lead to Konkani official language agitation but for Roqui Santan tired and exhausted thought other wise he loved to travel the world. On January 12 2007 while visiting New York, USA he suffered a massive cardiac arrest he never recovered and passed away, his body was cremated there and his urns containing his mortal remains were flown into Goa and laid to rest along side of other Velliapura royals in Velim Goa. Goans are still missing leaders like Roque Santan, they see his shoes but there is nobody to wear them.

by Andrew Antao:- the writer is Goan Origin, Ex-employee of Revenue Dept, Karwar Karnataka. March 15 2018

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